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By: **Delegates Kach and Owings**  
Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2003  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Single Registration Plate**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue a single  
4 registration plate to all classes of vehicles; providing for the method of  
5 attachment of the registration plate; altering the number of vintage registration  
6 plates that a person may display instead of a current registration plate;  
7 requiring the publisher of the Annotated Code to make certain corrections;  
8 making a stylistic change; making a technical change; and generally relating to  
9 vehicle registration plates.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article - Transportation  
12 Section 13-410, 13-411, and 13-936.1  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2002 Replacement Volume)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article - Transportation**

18 13-410.

19 (a) (1) [Except as otherwise provided in this title, when] WHEN it registers  
20 a vehicle, the Administration shall issue to the owner[:

21 (i) One] ONE registration plate [, if the vehicle is a Class D  
22 (motorcycle) vehicle, Class F (tractor) vehicle, or Class G (trailer) vehicle; and

23 (ii) Two registration plates for every other vehicle].

24 (2) [However, as to temporary registration, the] THE Administration  
25 may provide for the issuance of [only] one temporary registration plate for any  
26 vehicle.

27 (b) (1) [Each] THE registration plate shall display:

1 (i) The registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is  
2 issued; and

3 (ii) The name of this State, which may be abbreviated.

4 (2) The registration number may consist of letters, numerals, or both.

5 (c) (1) This [section] SUBSECTION applies only to the following vehicles:

6 (i) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

7 (ii) A Class E (truck) vehicle registered or capable of registration  
8 under § 13-917 of this title; and

9 (iii) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle.

10 (2) At the option of the registered owner of a vehicle for which A  
11 registration [plates are] PLATE IS issued under this title, in addition to the  
12 information otherwise required to be shown on the registration [plates] PLATE, the  
13 registration [plates] PLATE may display a sticker indicating the name of the county,  
14 including Baltimore City, in which the owner of the vehicle resides.

15 (3) The Administration shall:

16 (i) Approve a sticker design option that complies with paragraph  
17 (2) of this subsection; and

18 (ii) Offer to each vehicle owner applying for A new or replacement  
19 registration [plates] PLATE under this title the option to select a sticker that displays  
20 the owner's county of residence.

21 (4) In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under  
22 this title, the Administration may charge a fee, not to exceed its costs, for issuing or  
23 replacing the county sticker offered under this subsection.

24 (5) A vehicle owner may not display stickers that show a county name  
25 other than the owner's county of residence.

26 (6) A county sticker issued under this subsection may not be placed on a  
27 special registration plate or a commemorative registration plate issued under Subtitle  
28 6 of this title.

29 (d) Registration plates may be reflectorized and shall be manufactured of a  
30 material warranted to have a durability of at least 5 years. However, prior to  
31 registration plates being reflectorized, the Administration shall obtain approval of the  
32 General Assembly through a budget item.

33 (e) (1) During subsequent registration years, the Administrator may order  
34 the continued use of registration plates that are valid during any current registration  
35 year, and, after so doing, the Administrator shall issue, at the time a vehicle's

1 registration is renewed, a validation tab to evidence payment of the vehicle's annual  
2 registration fee.

3 (2) The tab shall be displayed on the [plates] PLATE of the vehicle in the  
4 manner that the Administrator requires.

5 (3) The Administrator from time to time shall evaluate the condition of  
6 registration plates issued under this title and may provide for the manufacture and  
7 issuance of new registration plates. These new registration plates shall be issued and  
8 subsequently validated in the manner required by this subtitle.

9 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the  
10 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and  
11 13-619 of this title.

12 13-411.

13 (a) [On a vehicle for which two registration plates are required, one plate  
14 shall be attached on the front and the other on the rear of the vehicle.

15 (b) On a vehicle for which one registration plate is required, the] THE  
16 REGISTRATION plate shall be attached on the:

17 (1) Front of the vehicle for a Class F (tractor) vehicle; and

18 (2) Rear of the vehicle for every other vehicle.

19 [(c)] (B) At all times, [each] THE registration plate shall be:

20 (1) Maintained free from foreign materials, including registration plate  
21 covers as defined in § 13-411.1 of this subtitle, and in a condition to be clearly legible;  
22 and

23 (2) Securely fastened to the vehicle for which it is issued:

24 (i) In a horizontal position;

25 (ii) In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and

26 (iii) In a place and position to be clearly visible.

27 [(d)] (C) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle  
28 Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, a person may not  
29 drive the vehicle on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to the vehicle  
30 and displayed on it, as required in this title:

31 (1) A registration plate [or plates] issued for the vehicle by the  
32 Administration for the current registration period; and

33 (2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

1 [(e)] (D) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle  
2 Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, the owner of the  
3 vehicle may not permit the vehicle to be driven on any highway in this State, unless  
4 there is attached to and displayed on the vehicle, as required in this title:

5 (1) A registration plate [or plates] issued by the Administration for the  
6 current registration period; and

7 (2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

8 [(f)] (E) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle  
9 Law, a vehicle used or driven in this State may not display on either its front or rear  
10 any expired registration plate issued by any state.

11 [(g)] (F) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle  
12 Law, a person may not display or permit to be displayed on any vehicle used or driven  
13 in this State any registration plate issued for another vehicle or to a person other  
14 than the owner of the vehicle.

15 [(h)] (G) (1) A vehicle registered as a historic or antique vehicle (Class L) in  
16 this State or in another state, when used or driven in this State, may display A  
17 vintage registration [plates] PLATE as an indication of the historic or antique nature  
18 of the vehicle. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the place on the  
19 vehicle provided for the display of THE registration [plates] PLATE may only be used  
20 for the display of THE current registration [plates] PLATE in accordance with  
21 subsections (a) [through (c)] AND (B) of this section, and any vintage registration  
22 plates which are used shall be displayed elsewhere on the vehicle.

23 (2) If the Administration authorizes the display of A vintage registration  
24 [plates] PLATE in lieu of A current registration [plates] PLATE, as provided in §  
25 13-936.1 of this title, the vintage registration [plates] PLATE shall be displayed as  
26 required under subsections (a) [through (c)] AND (B) of this section. However, the  
27 current registration [plates] PLATE shall be kept in the vehicle at all times.

28 [(i)] (H) It is the duty of every police officer to report to the Administration all  
29 vehicles operated in violation of this section. The Administration shall verify whether  
30 the owner of a reported vehicle has complied with this section.

31 13-936.1.

32 (a) In this section "vintage registration plate" means a Maryland registration  
33 plate that was actually issued for display on a motor vehicle in a year not less than 25  
34 years prior to January 1 of each calendar year.

35 (b) (1) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the owner of a motor  
36 vehicle registered under § 13-936 or § 13-937.1 of this subtitle as a Class L (historic)  
37 or Class N (street rod) vehicle may display [2 vintage registration plates in lieu] A  
38 VINTAGE REGISTRATION PLATE INSTEAD of A current registration [plates] PLATE on  
39 that vehicle.

1           (2)       The Administration may authorize the display of [2 vintage  
2 registration plates in lieu] A VINTAGE REGISTRATION PLATE INSTEAD of A current  
3 registration [plates] PLATE on a motor vehicle described in paragraph (1) of this  
4 subsection if:

5                   (i)       The owner of the motor vehicle submits an application on a form  
6 prescribed by the Administrator;

7                   (ii)       The [2] vintage registration [plates were] PLATE WAS issued  
8 in the same year as the model year of the motor vehicle; and

9                   (iii)       The owner of the motor vehicle pays a onetime registration fee  
10 of \$13.50.

11       (c)       If the Administration authorizes the display of A vintage registration  
12 [plates] PLATE under this section:

13           (1)       The vintage registration [plates] PLATE shall remain valid for as  
14 long as title to the motor vehicle remains in the person who submitted an application  
15 under subsection (b)(2)(i) of this section; and

16           (2)       A fee in addition to the one time registration fee prescribed in  
17 subsection (b)(2)(iii) of this section is not required for the issuance of the vintage  
18 registration [plates] PLATE.

19       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any reference in the  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland to multiple registration plates rendered obsolete by this  
21 Act shall be corrected by the publisher of the Annotated Code, in consultation with  
22 the Department of Legislative Services, with no further action required by the  
23 General Assembly. The publisher shall adequately describe corrections made under  
24 this section in the editor's note following the section affected.

25       SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 October 1, 2003.